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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Sceloporus smithi Hartweg and Oliver, 1937 (Squamata: Phrynosomatidae): Distributional range extension and a new elevation record from Oaxaca, México

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ABSTRACT: A male *Sceloporus smithi* was collected at Hierve El Agua, in the Municipality of San Lorenzo Albarradas, Oaxaca, México. This record extends the known distribution of the species by approximately 25 km N from the closest acknowledged locality and also represents a new upward elevational record. Even though the elevation at this site is almost 700 m higher than for previously documented localities, the subhumid forest and igneous rock association is similar to other inhabited localities at lower elevations.

Sceloporus smithi Hartweg and Oliver 1937 has been reported from throughout the southern lowlands of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec region in southeastern Oaxaca and adjacent southwestern Chiapas, at localities with elevations ranging from sea level to 1000 m (Hartweg and Oliver 1937; Smith *et al.* 1993; Mendoza-Quijano *et al.* 1995; Peterson *et al.* 2004; Köhler 2008). Lizards of this species have been reported to inhabit tropical dry forests on granite boulders (Hartweg and Oliver 1937, Mendoza-Quijano *et al.* 1995), and on the forest floor (Peterson *et al.* 2004).

On 20 December 2011 an adult male *S. smithi* (SVL = 63 mm; tail length = 90 mm; 10.2 g; Figure 1) was found basking on a granite boulder positioned on the southwest-facing slope of a hill located near Hierve El Agua, Municipality of San Lorenzo Albarradas, Oaxaca (16°51'62" N, 96°16'72" W; 1694 m elevation). The vegetation formation where the lizard was found is represented by thorn woodland as described by Johnson *et al*. (2010) (Figure 2). The lizard was photographed, captured, and later deposited in the Colección Herpetológica del Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, México (CIB 4184). The specimen was collected under permit SGPA/DGVS/01902/11 issued by Subsecretaría de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental-Dirección General de Vida Silvestre. The collecting site extends the known geographic range of the species in Oaxaca *ca*. 25 km N from the closest reported locality, *ca*. 3.2 km S of Totolapan (Smith *et al.* 1993), and also chronicles a new upward elevational range extension for this species of 694 m. Two other individuals were observed in the general vicinity; one was under an unidentified *Agave*, and the other was hiding under a rock.

Sceloporus smithi has been reported to be associated with granitic rock formations in subhumid habitats throughout the dry Pacific lowlands within the Isthmus of Tehuantepc region of southeastern México. It was previously reported to have an elevational limit of 1000

FIGURE 1. Adult male *Sceloporus smithi* CIB 4184, SVL 63 mm, from Hierve El Agua, Municipality of San Lorenzo Albarradas, Oaxaca, México. Photo by Vicente Mata-Silva.

FIGURE 2. Thorn woodland habitat occupied by *Sceloporus smithi* in the vicinity of Hierve El Agua, Municipality of San Lorenzo Albarradas, Oaxaca, México. Photo by Vicente Mata-Silva.

m (Peterson *et al*. 2004). The record reported herein at 1694 m indicates that *S. smithi* reaches higher elevations primarily because thorn woodland ascends to higher elevation on the Pacific slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur in Oaxaca where dry valleys transect more mesic vegetation formations occurring on adjacent slopes. The record also indicates that the montane regions in southern Oaxaca support thorn woodland at higher elevations than areas in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas to the east, where tropical deciduous forest and pine-oak forest prevail (Johnson *et al*. 2010).

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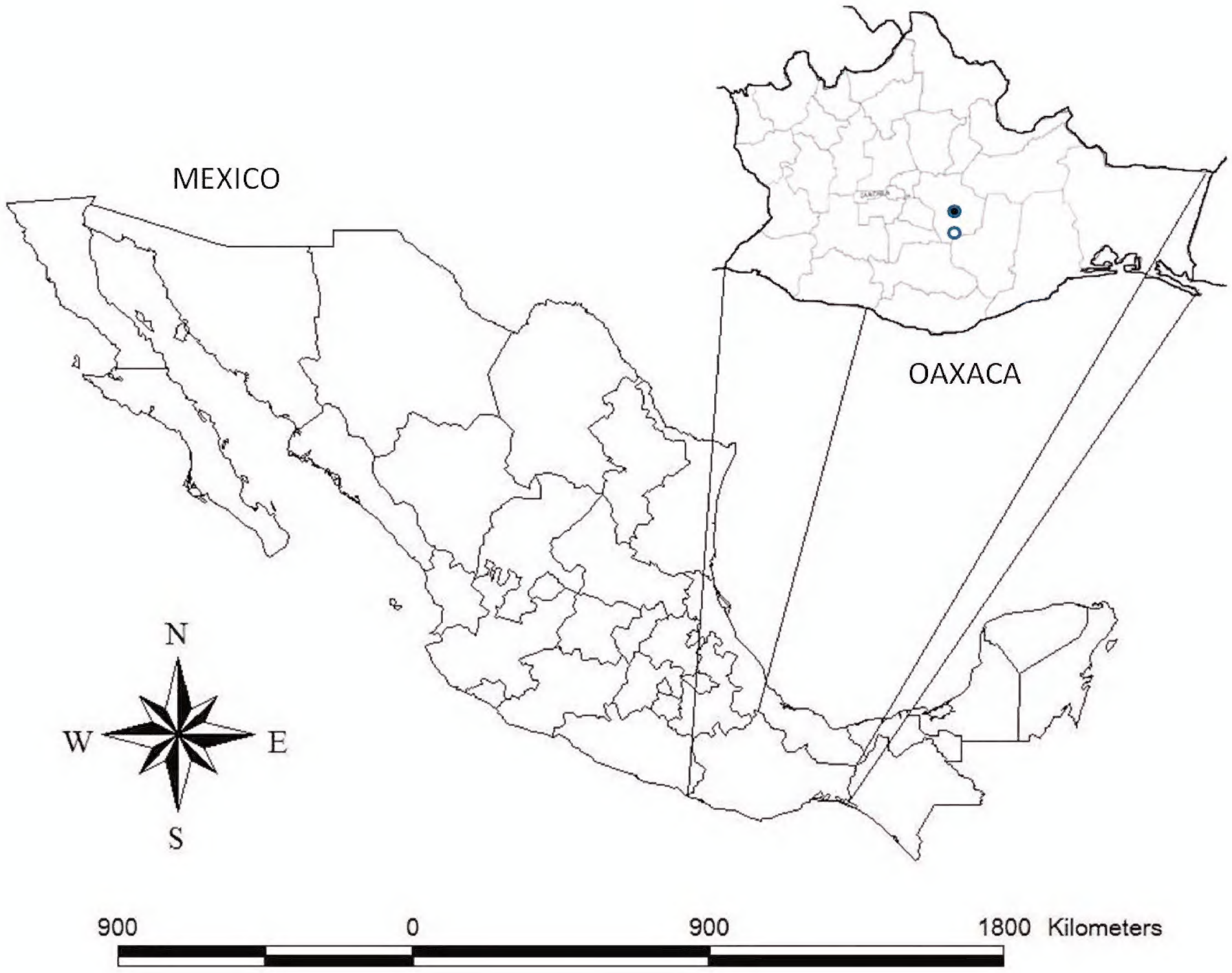

Figure 3. A map depicting the new site of *Sceloporus smithi* reported herein (black circle) and its closest previously reported locality (open circle).

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